In the Claims

Applicant has submitted a new complete claim set showing marked up claims with insertions indicated by underlining and deletions indicated by strikeouts and/or double bracketing. This listing of claims will replace all versions and listings of claims in the application.

1. (Original) A composition comprising a conjugate of hyaluronic acid and a linking molecule that is a substrate of transglutaminase, and free hyaluronic acid, wherein the free hyaluronic acid and the conjugate are present in a molar ratio of at least 2.

2-27. (Canceled).

28. (Original) A pharmaceutical composition comprising hyaluronic acid covalently linked to a linking molecule that is a substrate of transglutaminase, wherein the linking molecule is uncomplexed.

29-54. (Canceled).

55. (Currently Amended) A composition comprising a conjugate of hyaluronic acid and ~~a to~~ a linking molecule that is a substrate of transglutaminase, in an eye dropper bottle.

56-107. (Canceled).

108. (Original) A method for treating a subject comprising administering to an eye of a subject having or at risk of having dryness of the eye an effective amount of a conjugate of hyaluronic acid and a linking molecule that is a substrate of transglutaminase.

109. (Original) The method of claim 108, wherein the conjugate is provided in a form selected from the group consisting of an eye dropper, a contact lens solution, an ophthalmic ointment, an eye pack, and a contact lens.

110. (Original) A method of treating a subject comprising administering to an oral cavity of a subject having or at risk of having dryness of the oral cavity an effective amount of a conjugate of hyaluronic acid and a linking molecule that is a substrate of transglutaminase.

111-114. (Canceled).

115. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 108,~~110, 112,113 or 114,~~ wherein the effective amount is less than 0.05 μg/kg per day.

116. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 108,~~110, 112,113 or 114,~~ wherein the linking molecule has at least two contiguous aliphatic amines, at least three contiguous aliphatic amines, at least four contiguous aliphatic amines, at least five aliphatic amines, or at least six aliphatic amines.

117. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 108,~~110, 112,113 or 114,~~ wherein the linking molecule is native polylysine.

118. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 108, wherein polylysine is selected from the group consisting of poly-L-lysine, poly-D-lysine, and poly-DL-lysine.

119. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 108,~~110, 112,113 or 114,~~ wherein the linking molecule is a derivative of polylysine.

120-123. (Canceled).

124. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 108,~~110, 112,113 or 114,~~ wherein the hyaluronic acid is native hyaluronic acid.

125. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 108,~~110, 112,113 or 114,~~ wherein the hyaluronic acid is a derivative of hyaluronic acid selected from the group consisting of a pharmaceutically acceptable salt of hyaluronic acid, a hyaluronic acid ester, and a sulfated hyaluronic acid.

126. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 108,~~110, 112,113 or 114,~~ wherein the hyaluronic acid has a molecular weight of at least 100,000.

127. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 108,~~110, 112,113 or 114,~~ wherein the conjugate has a negative charge to positive charge ratio of greater than 1.0.

128. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 108,~~110, 112,113 or 114,~~ wherein the conjugate is administered in a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

129. (Original) The method of claim 108, wherein the conjugate is administered in a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier that comprises an ophthalmic preservative.

130. (Original) The method of claim 129, wherein the ophthalmic preservative is selected from the group consisting of organic mercurials, quaternary ammonium compounds, parahydroxybenzoic acid esters, substituted alcohols and phenols.

131. (Original) The method of claim 129, wherein the organic mercurial is selected from the group consisting of phenylmercuric nitrate, phenylmercuric acetate, phenylmercuric borate, and thimerosal.

132. (Original) The method of claim 129, wherein the quaternary ammonium compound is selected from the group consisting of benzalkonium chloride, benzethonium chloride, cetyl pyridinium chloride, and polyquaternium-1 (POLYQUAD).

133. (Original) The method of claim 129, wherein the substituted alcohol and phenol is selected from the group consisting of chlorobutanol, and chlorobutanol/phenylethyl alcohol.

134. (Original) The method of claim 128, wherein the ophthalmic preservative is an antibiotic.

135. (Canceled).

136. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 108,~~110, 112,113 or 114,~~ wherein the conjugate has a weight ratio selected from the group consisting of at least 90%, at least 95%, and at least 99%.

137. (Original) The method of claim 128, wherein the pharmaceutically acceptable carrier comprises arginine.

138. (Original) The method of claim 128, wherein the pharmaceutically acceptable carrier has a pH of at least 6.5.

139. (Original) The method of claim 128, wherein the pharmaceutically acceptable carrier has an osmolality of at least 280 mOsm.